

Testimony on HB 509
House Natural Resource Committee
February 19, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Immen and I am here today representing Montana Audubon in support of HB 509.

Montana Audubon routinely works on issues that protect the habitat for birds and other wildlife. The two aspects of HB 509 that we would specifically like to draw your attention:

1. The modernizing of the term "ephemeral drainageways" to "ephemeral stream." Most individuals call these areas streams.
2. The more specific reclamation standards that will be developed to revegetate areas with native grasses, forbes, shrubs, and trees. Unless an area is to be used as cropland, establishment of native plants will greatly enhance wildlife habitat. Healthy native plant communities help control weeds, as well as provide forage for livestock and wildlife.